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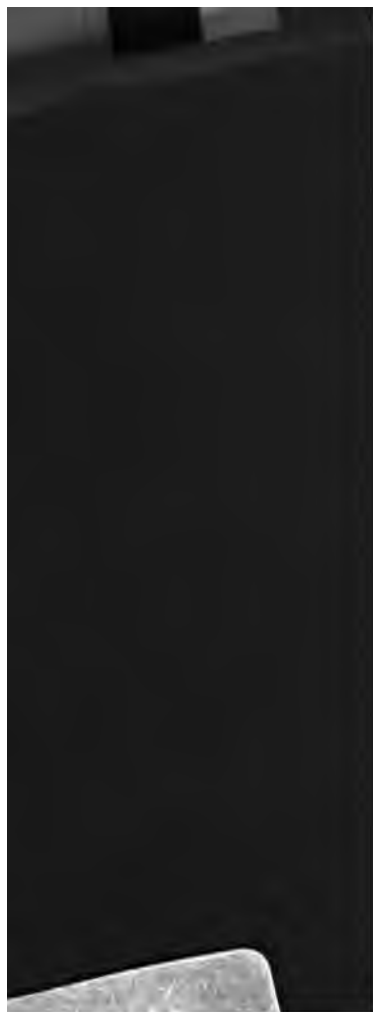
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OR,

THOUGHTS FOR LIFE'S EVENTIDE.

BY

J. R. MACDUFF, D.D.,

AUTHOR OF "MORNING AND NIGHT WATCHES,"  
"MEMORIES OF BETHANY," ETC., ETC.

"Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day  
is far spent."—LUKE xxiv. 29.

"At evening time it shall be light."—ZECH. xiv. 7.

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PAUL'S WORK.

For you who have reached life's sunset-hour,—time's Curfew-bell tolling,—the fires about to be put out, and the flocks to be folded,—the following pages, though not exclusively, are more specially intended.

They consist of a selection of Scripture texts, accompanied with a few lines of original poetry, (in most cases, a simple paraphrase or expansion of the verses preceding,) put in the form of portions for daily reading. These combined, may serve, with the Divine

blessing, as "the olive-oil beaten for the light" which fed, of old, the lamps of the Jewish sanctuary, (Exod. xxvii. 20.) The Temple-lamps were lighted "at even." May He who walketh in the midst of the golden candlesticks, cheer the evening of your pilgrimage with His own presence and love. If "the windows and they that look out of them be darkened" and the night-shadows be falling,—may you be able, in calm assurance, to say, "THOU wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness," (Ps. xviii. 28.)

Thus, with life's Curfew-hours occupied as an Emmaus-journey, in the fellowship of a present, though unseen *Saviour*, be it yours ever to breathe the

prayer—"ABIDE WITH US; FOR IT IS TOWARD EVENING, AND THE DAY IS FAR SPENT:" that so, when the day *is* spent,—when the summons has been given, "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe,"—you may fall, like the mellowed shock of corn in its season, only to be gathered by the reaper-angels into the Heavenly garner.

"ASK YE OF THE LORD RAIN IN THE TIME OF THE LATTER RAIN SO THE LORD SHALL MAKE BRIGHT CLOUDS, AND GIVE THEM SHOWERS OF RAIN." — ZECH. x. 1.

## In Memoriam.

---

These to life's oldest, latest guide,  
Translated to an early crown;  
Whose sun, while yet 'twas day, went down,  
Ere fell the shades of eventide!

In worth of heart and wealth of brain  
In all that noble was and pure,—  
All that is destined to endure—  
I ne'er shall see his like again.

Long lingers in the western sky  
The vanish'd orb's resplendent hue.  
In gleaming memories, ever new,  
That life survives: it cannot die.

This tribute of most sacred love  
I lay upon his honour'd bier;  
If I could do it, not a tear  
Would weep him from his bliss above.

'Tis better far to be with HIM  
Whose work gave zest to life while here;  
Oh, grudge him not the wider sphere,—  
The Brotherhood with Seraphim!

## CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
THE SILVER CORD AND GOLDEN BOWL, . . . . .	10
ASLEEP IN JESUS, . . . . .	12
NEVER, NEVER, . . . . .	14
A WARNING BELL, . . . . .	16
EVEN SO, . . . . .	18
SCOPTICISM AND FAITH, . . . . .	20
SUFFICIENT GRACE, . . . . .	22
WAITING, . . . . .	24
A THREEFOLD LITANY, . . . . .	26
THE INCORRUPTIBLE, . . . . .	28
EVENTIDE LIGHT, . . . . .	30
THE DAY BREAKETH, . . . . .	32
REST, . . . . .	34
THE SLEEP OF THE BELOVED, . . . . .	36
EBENEZER, . . . . .	38
A CHIME OF BELLS, . . . . .	40
ABIDE WITH ME, . . . . .	42
GOD REIGNETH, . . . . .	44
A RETROSPECT, . . . . .	46
NRARING LAND, . . . . .	48
THE BURDEN CAST, . . . . .	50
READY TO DEPART, . . . . .	52
THE BORDER RIVER, . . . . .	54
THE SUN AND SHIELD, . . . . .	56
LIFE AND DEATH, . . . . .	58
TRUSTING IN THE DARK, . . . . .	60
LENGTHENING SHADOWS, . . . . .	62
SOVEREIGN GRACE, . . . . .	64
MY FATHER'S HOUSE, . . . . .	66
THE DARK VALLEY, . . . . .	68
THE UNSETTING SUN, . . . . .	70

**CURFEW CHIMES.**

1ST DAY.

## THE SILVER CORD AND GOLDEN BOWL.

"Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."—2 Cor. iv. 16.

"While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves: . . . also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond-tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern: then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."—Eccles. xii. 2-7.

THOUGH dust must soon return to dust,  
Earth to its earth, and clay to clay;

Renew, O God, in whom I trust,  
My better part from day to day.

Soon shall life's wheel in fragments lie,  
Its almond-tree shall cease to bloom ;  
Sun, moon, and stars, swept from its sky,  
Or shining only o'er my tomb.

About the streets, with footsteps slow,  
In sackcloth shall the mourners roam ;  
To plaintive music, soft and low,  
" Man goeth to the long, long home ! "

But, although loosed the silver cord,  
Though broken be the golden bowl,  
To new and glorious life restored,  
On still shall live the deathless soul.

Surrender'd in immortal trust,  
To Him whose blood alone can save it ;  
" Then shall the dust return to dust,  
The spirit to the God who gave it ! "

2D DAY.

## ASLEEP IN JESUS.

"Our friend Lazarus sleepeth."—John xi. 11.

"And when he had said this, he fell asleep."—Acts vii. 60.

"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep."—Acts xiii. 36.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."—1 Thess. iv. 13, 14.

"In Jesu Christo obdormivit," (In Jesus Christ he fell asleep.)—*Inscription in Roman Catacombs.*

IN the famed crypts of storied Rome,  
(The gloom, no daylight to relieve it,)  
We read upon the mouldering stone,  
"IN JESU CHRISTO OBDORMIVIT."

Oh, precious tale of triumph this,  
And martyr blood shed to achieve it!  
Of suffering past—of present bliss—  
"IN JESU CHRISTO OBDORMIVIT."

Be mine, of cherish'd dead, the trust,  
(Thrice blessed solace to believe it,)  
That I can utter o'er their dust,  
"IN JESU CHRISTO OBDORMIVIT."

And when I close earth's pilgrim race;  
When the last summons comes to  
leave it;  
May loved eyes on my gravestone  
trace—  
"IN JESU CHRISTO OBDORMIVIT!"

3D DAY.

## 'NEVER, NEVER.

"For He hath said, I will never leave thee,"  
(never, never,) "nor forsake thee."—Heb. xiii. 5.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the  
strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."—  
Ps. lxxiii. 26.

"Lover and friend hast Thou put far from me,  
and mine acquaintance into darkness." — Ps.  
lxxxviii. 18.

"Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his  
nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of?"  
—Isa. ii. 22.

"Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord  
Jehovah is everlasting strength."—Isa. xxvi. 4.

"Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end  
of the world."—Matt. xxviii. 20.

EVENING shades fall fast around me ;  
Cherish'd ones no more surround me,  
Gone for ever !—

“ I will never,  
Never leave thee, nor forsake ! ”

Voices hush'd that once spake gladness,  
Must I float in lonely sadness  
Down Time's river ?

“ I will never,  
Never leave thee, nor forsake ! ”

Earth's most treasured joys may perish  
From each gourd I fondly cherish  
Death may sever—

“ I will never,  
Never leave thee, nor forsake ! ”

4TH DAY.

## A WARNING BELL.

"To-day, after so long a time; as it is said,  
To-day, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your  
hearts."—Heb. iv. 7.

"TO-DAY, if ye will hear His voice."  
Who would not listen and rejoice?  
"To-day, (*after so long a time*;) "  
Thus Mercy ringeth her golden chime!

So long a time monitions given;  
So long a time My Spirit striven;  
By mercies present, mercies fled,  
Gourds blossoming or witherèd;  
By voices living, voices dumb,  
By jubilant or muffled drum;  
By warnings of My chastening hand,  
Effaced like writing on the sand!  
Why still reject My offer'd grace?  
Why still pursue life's phantom chase?  
Oh, listen, scorers, while I call,  
Amidst earth's giddy carnival.

Still is forgiveness in your choice,  
"To-day, if ye will hear My voice"—  
"To-day, (*after so long a time;*)"  
Thus Mercy ringeth her golden chime!

To-morrow! No; you cannot tell.  
To-morrow! it may toll your knell.  
To-morrow! it may come with ire;  
With seated Judge and flaming fire!

"Tell me, watchman, what of the  
night?"

The shadows are dimming in evening  
light;  
The portals of death are looming in  
sight;—  
Hasten, oh, hasten life's winter  
flight!

While yet there is hope, while yet  
there is time,  
Ere Mercy be ringing her farewell  
chime;—

"To-day, if ye will hear My voice,"  
Listen—repent—believe—rejoice!

5TH DAY.

## EVEN SO.

"Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight."—Matt. xi. 26.

"He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."—Matt. xxvi. 42.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."—Job i. 21.

"I was dumb, I opened not my mouth: because Thou didst it."—Ps. xxxix. 9.

"Even so, Amen."—Rev. i. 7.

O my Father, "EVEN so!"  
Nought is stable earth can show;  
Friendships come and friendships go;  
Sorrows oft their shadows throw;  
Wither'd leaves my pathway strew;  
Billows tossing to and fro!  
But, amid the ebb and flow  
'Tis enough for me to know,  
All that happens here below  
Thou in love appointest so;  
Taking what Thou didst bestow,  
Raising up and laying low—  
"EVEN so!"

6TH DAY.

## SCEPTICISM AND FAITH.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."—Ps. xiv. 1.

"God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."—2 Cor. iv. 6.

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."—2 Tim. i. 12.

Oh, sad are they who can descry  
No higher God than "Destiny,"  
Ruling this world so fair;  
Who in life's loom the shuttles see,  
Weaving their web capriciously,  
Without Artificer!  
A barque, unpiloted, astray,—  
The sport of fitful winds and spray,  
Poor self-abandon'd castaway,  
Drifting he knows not where!

Thrice happy, Lord, are those who see  
This bright creation all in Thee,  
And there Thy footsteps trace;  
And happier still, to Jesus led,  
Renew'd, forgiven, and comforted,  
The children of His grace;  
Exulting in His boundless love;  
Longing, on wings of soaring dove  
To mount to brighter worlds above,  
His glorious dwelling-place !

“ I know in whom I have believed ;”—  
He who, by dying, has achieved  
What I could ne'er have won ;  
O Saviour, I commit my soul  
Unto Thy loving, wise control ;  
And then, when time is done—  
When on that great and solemn day  
The heavens and earth shall pass away,  
My still unwavering trust and stay  
Shall be in Thee alone !

7TH DAY.

## SUFFICIENT GRACE.

**"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."**—Deut. xxxiii. 25.

**"Ye know not what shall be on the morrow."**—James iv. 14.

**"Take no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."**—Matt. vi. 34.

**"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."**—Phil. iv. 19.

**"I will make My grace sufficient for thee; for My strength is made perfect in weakness."**—2 Cor. xii. 9.

How many linger on life's way,  
Forecasting vain their future sorrow:  
He who gives needed strength to-day,  
Will give it for that unknown morrow !

“ Sufficient is My grace for thee ;”  
Be this the cure for care's corrodings:  
“ As is thy day, thy strength shall be,”  
May well disperse all dark forebodings.

Then garner no redundant store ;  
Nor from the future seek to borrow ;  
Enough for present use—no more ;  
So “ take no thought about to-morrow.”

8TH DAY.

## WAITING.

"I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord."—Gen. xlix. 18.

"And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee."—Ps. xxxix. 7.

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."—Ps. xxvii. 13, 14.

"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."—Isa. xl. 30, 31.

NOTHING need I wait for now ;  
Ebbing moments quickly flee ;  
Blessed Jesus, only Thou  
Canst my hope and portion be.  
    True and faithful in the past,  
    Oh, befriend me to the last !

Even youth shall weary grow,  
Young men utterly shall fall ;  
But no faintness those shall know,  
Who have made this God their all.  
    Up on eagle-wing they rise,  
    Soaring to their native skies.

I have waited Thy salvation,  
O my Saviour and my God ;  
Soon this vale of tribulation  
Shall my feeble steps have trod :  
    Angels ! open wide the portal,  
    Which conducts to bliss immortal !

9TH DAY.

## A THREEFOLD LITANY.

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."—Gal. vi. 14.

"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."—1 John i. 7.

"Jesus wept."—John xi. 35.

"And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch."—Matt. xxvii. 59, 60, 66.

By Thy Cross and Passion, Lord ;  
By Thy precious blood outpour'd ;  
By Thy untold woes for me,  
Suffer'd in Gethsemane ;  
By the midnight gloom around,  
Sackcloth'd sun and quaking ground ;  
By Thy last expiring cries ;  
By Thy priceless sacrifice ;  
Jesus, bend Thy loving eye,  
Wash my *sins* of crimson dye !

By those touching accents spoken  
To the lone heart, crush'd and broken,  
Giving back "the widow's son,"  
Her beloved—her only one;  
By that fond and tender tear,  
Falling on a brother's bier;  
By each word bequeath'd by Thee  
At the grave of Bethany;  
    Jesus, bend Thy loving eye,  
    When *bereaved* to Thee I cry!

By Thy hush'd and stifled breath,  
Vanquish'd Vanquisher of death!  
Once adored by cherubim,  
Now with rayless eyeballs dim;  
By Thy passage through the tomb,  
Entering silent Hades' gloom;  
By the shroud the weepers saw  
In the grave of Golgotha;  
    Jesus, bend Thy loving eye—  
    Oh! be with me when I *die*!

10TH DAY.

## THE INCORRUPTIBLE.

"Shall the dust praise Thee? shall it declare Thy truth?"—Ps. xxx. 9.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."—2 Cor. v. 1.

"It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."—1 Cor. xv. 42, 43.

"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."—1 Cor. xv. 53, 54.

**EARTHLY** tabernacle shaking,  
Earthly beams and rafters breaking,  
Tell the outward man's decay.  
But, through chinks of batter'd ceiling,  
Rays of heavenly glory stealing,  
Harbinger eternal day.

Oh! be mine that morn of brightness,  
When, in robes of vestal whiteness,  
Myriads rise, no more to die :  
Gazing back on death's dark portal ;  
Seeing all that once was mortal,  
Clothed with immortality !

11TH DAY.

## EVENTIDE LIGHT.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: but it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening-time it shall be light."—Zech. xiv. 6, 7.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."—Rom. viii. 28.

"Even to your old age I am He."—Isa. xli. 4.

"In Thy light shall we see light."—Ps. xxxvi. 9.

EARTH'S day is neither dark nor  
bright—

Now shining sun, now lowering sky ;  
But on the promise I rely,  
“ At evening-time it shall be light.”

When cherish'd stars are lost from  
sight,

How can I read amid the gloom  
Which hovers darkly o'er the tomb,  
“ At evening-time it shall be light ?”

Yes ! for, methinks, I seem by night  
To hear sweet music from afar,  
Floating—as if from vanish'd star—  
“ At evening-time it shall be light !”

And when dull faith is changed to  
sight,

When “ dark ” and “ light ” their con-  
flict cease ,

Then shall I *know* these words of peace,  
“ At evening-time it shall be light !”

12TH DAY.

## THE DAY BREAKETH.

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."—Jer. viii. 20.

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."—2 Cor. vi. 2.

"Let me go, for the day breaketh."—Gen. xxxii. 28.

SWIFT as the vapour of the skies;  
Swift as the weaver's shuttle flies;  
Swift as the speed of mountain-stream,  
Or vision of a transient dream;  
Swift as the autumn leaves decay,—  
So speed my waning years away.  
Great God! forbid I should postpone,  
As if the morrow were my own,  
While I can trust "to-day" alone!  
Forbid that I should give my best  
To self and sin,—to Thee the rest.  
To self, the golden morning prime,  
The summer's glow and autumn-time

To Thee the wintry storms of age,  
The sweepings of my pilgrimage !  
Poor trophies of neglected strife,  
The remnant of a wither'd life ;  
The late (too late) repentance-tear,  
When death and judgment-seat are  
near !

The summer ended, harvest past,  
Wilt Thou disown me at the last ?  
Although my wingèd moments flee,  
May I redeem them yet for Thee ?  
Wilt Thou reject the fervent prayer  
Of an unhappy lingerer ?

“ Let me go, the day is breaking ! ”  
Christ and His salvation taking ;  
Christ my only portion making ;  
Every other trust forsaking.  
Oh, amid last thunders quaking,  
Earth and hills' foundations shaking,  
Grant me, Lord, a joyful waking !  
In this hope of life partaking—  
“ Let me go, the day is breaking ! ”

13TH DAY.

## REST.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—Matt. xi. 28.

"For I know their sorrows."—Exod. iii. 7.

"And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."—1 John ii. 1.

"And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."—Heb. ii. 15.

"But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark; for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark."—Gen. viii. 9.

PILGRIM in a vale of tears,  
Burden'd with the weight of years;  
Foes without and fears within,  
Memories of bygone sin;

Trembling as the shadows lower  
Over life's last closing hour ;  
Like the wailing dove of old,  
Longing for some perch, to fold  
These your weary drooping wings,  
And to cease your wanderings !  
" Weary, heavy-laden one,  
Seeking rest and finding none,  
Come to Me, and Me alone ! "

Meekly do I listen, Lord,  
To the kind inviting word !  
Gladly at Thy call I go,  
With my weight of sin and woe ;  
Heavy heart and tear-dimm'd eye ;  
Shrinking dread at last to die :  
For Thy lips of love have spoken  
Words that never can be broken—  
" Weary, heavy-laden one,  
Seeking rest and finding none,  
Come to Me, and Me alone ! "

14TH DAY.

## THE SLEEP OF THE BELOVED.

"So He giveth His beloved sleep."—Ps. cxxvii. 2.

"I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me."—Ps. iii. 5.

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."  
—Ps. iv. 8.

"He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; He shall preserve thy soul."—Ps. cxxi. 3-7.

"Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. . . . They thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep."—John xi. 12, 13.

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."—Heb. iv. 9.

THOUGH glad the thought, that round  
my bed .  
Bright angel guards their vigils keep;  
Yet not of them the word is said—  
“ HE giveth His beloved sleep.”

When over joys I cherish'd best ;—  
When for ' the loved and lost ' I weep,  
One voice alone can hush to rest—  
“ HE giveth His beloved sleep.”

Night of all nights, when call'd to die ;  
Sinking in final slumber deep ;—  
Be mine the last glad lullaby—  
' HE giveth His beloved sleep ! ”

15TH DAY.

## EBENEZER.

"Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee."—Deut. viii. 2.

"I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember Thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all Thy work, and talk of Thy doings."—Ps. lxxvii. 11, 12.

"And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah."—Exod. xv. 23.

"And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters."—Exod. xv. 27.

I WILL remember all the way  
By which the Lord my God hath led  
me;  
A fire by night, a cloud by day—  
With heavenly manna He has fed me.

The Marah-streams of sorrow few,  
Have with their bitter waters found me;  
While Elim's mercies, ever new,  
Have spread their palm - shade oft  
around me !

While yet I tread this vale of tears,  
While yet this tongue hath strength to  
praise Thee,  
Let me, throughout my waning years,  
New Ebenezers fondly raise Thee !

And when I reach eternal day—  
The manna ceased on earth which fed  
me—  
Still, I'll remember all the way  
By which the Lord my God hath led  
me !

16TH DAY.

## A CHIME OF BELLS.

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper-stone, clear as crystal."—Rev. xxi. 10, 11.

"And the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass."—Rev. xxi. 21.

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."—Rev. xxi. 3, 4.

HARK ! a distant chime is ringing,  
Floating from the Crystal sea ;  
With celestial cadence, bringing  
Tidings full of joy to me.

“ God the Lord shall wipe away  
Every tear from every eye ;  
Night shall merge in endless day ;  
Death itself shall henceforth die !

“ He, your Sun, shall never dim ;  
Nothing from His presence sever ;  
Peerless bliss ! to reign with Him,—  
Ransom'd kings and priests, for ever !”

Soon I'll tread “ the golden street ;”  
Bells of glory ring me in !  
Let your gladdening welcome greet—  
“ No more sorrow, death, or sin.”

17TH DAY.

## ABIDE WITH ME.

"Abide with us: for it is towards evening, and the day is far spent."—Luke xxiv. 29.

"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."  
—Prov. iv. 18.

"Yet He hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire."—2 Sam. xxiii. 5.

"And thine age shall be clearer than the noon-day; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning."—Job xi. 17.

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly to heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. . . . And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."—Acts vii. 55, 59.

Rock, hill, and tree, as evening fades,  
Project their ever-lengthening shades :  
The crimson couch of dying sun  
Proclaims his race will soon be run.

But, as yon flaming orb of light  
Oft brightens ere he sinks from sight,  
Like an illumined chart unroll'd  
In burnish'd lettering of gold ;—

So shall my sunset moments be,  
Dear Lord, if Thou abide with me ;  
Nought shall my eventide o'ercast,  
If Thou be with me at the last.

Still would I pray—Abide with me !  
Thy blood and work are all my plea ;  
Be these, when laid on dying bed,  
A pillow for my sinking head !

18TH DAY.

## GOD REIGNETH.

"The Lord reigneth."—Ps. xcvi. 10.

"The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord."—Prov. xvi. 33.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."—Matt. x. 29-31.

"He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."—Mal. iii. 3.

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."—Rev. xix. 6.

BLESSED truth ! " Jehovah reigns ;"  
All that happens He ordains.  
'Tis His voice the thunder wakes ;  
'Tis His voice the cedar breaks ;  
Guides the planets, great or small ;  
Notes the tender sparrow's fall.  
Funeral bell or marriage chimes,—  
All are His appointed times.  
Think not, in your hours forlorn,  
That He sends one needless thorn ;  
These, inserted in the nest,  
Force to flight for better rest,  
Soaring up on buoyant wings,  
Roused from earth's poor grovellings.  
Not in judgment—not in ire,  
Sits He by the furnace-fire ;  
It is heated to refine,  
Temper'd by His love divine.  
Oh, rejoice—Jehovah reigns ;  
All that happens He ordains.

19TH DAY.

## A RETROSPECT.

"Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee."—Ps. xl. 5.

"The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him."—Lam. iii. 24, 25.

"Thy way is in the sea, and Thy path in the great waters, and Thy footsteps are not known."—Ps. lxxvii. 19.

"Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; Thy judgments are a great deep."—Ps. xxxvi. 5, 6.

"In your patience possess ye your souls."—Luke xxi. 19.

WITH grateful spirit, Lord, I cast  
My memory o'er a gracious past,  
Fondly recounting at each stage  
*The mercies of my pilgrimage.*

Thy way is sometimes in the sea ;  
Thy footsteps are unknown to me ;  
Thy justice, like the mountains'-steep ;  
Thy judgments are a mighty deep !

But, patient would I wait Thy will,  
And, amid dealings dark, be still ;  
Kiss with un murmuring lips the rod,  
And own the wisdom of my God !

Oft, when my sun has set in gloom,  
Amid the shadows of the tomb,  
Thy promises, like stars of light,  
Shine brightest in the vault of night.

Take what Thou wilt, O Lord, away ;  
Be Thou my portion and my stay ;  
Then, whatsoe'er the future be,  
In calm repose, I'll hope in Thee !

20TH DAY.

## NEARING LAND.

"About midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country. . . . Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. . . . And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land."—Acts xxvii. 27, 29, 44.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand."—Rom. xiii. 12.

"So He bringeth them unto their desired haven."—Ps. cvii. 30.

IN the midst of the swell,  
When the land-birds appear,  
The seaman can tell  
That the haven is near.  
By the floating green weeds,  
And the white breakers' roar,  
He knows that he speeds  
To the coveted shore.

Is it vain, while we sail  
Over life's starless sea,

When the night-shades prevail,  
To inquire where we be?  
By the dimness of eye,  
And the dull closing ear,  
We can surely descry  
That the harbour is near;  
That nigh is the strand  
Of the still, silent land!

The breakers of death may be lifting  
their crest,  
I dread not to meet the precursors of  
rest;  
They herald my barque where no bil-  
lows can roll,  
Nor tempest can ruffle the peace of the  
soul.  
“The night is far spent, and the day is  
at hand”—  
Thrice welcome, ye shores of the blest  
Better land!

SUN DAY.

## THE BURDEN CAST.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee."—Ps. lv. 22.

"For Thou hast delivered my soul from death, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living."—Ps. lvi. 13.

"And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof."—Josh. xxiii. 14.

*"Cast thy burden on the Lord;"*  
Listen to the gracious word!  
He has promised, not in vain,  
All who trust Him to sustain.

Sadly have I changed towards Him,  
Faith grown cold, affection dim ;  
Turning treacherously aside,  
Fitful as the varying tide.  
But let grateful lips proclaim,  
HE has ever been the same.  
Oft has He dispell'd my fears,  
Soothed my sorrows, dried my tears ;  
And when darkness veil'd my skies,  
Caused the day-spring to arise,  
Gladdening with His presence bright,—  
Cloud by day and fire by night.  
Never yet was promise broken  
Which the Lord my God hath spoken  
Thousands who have gain'd the crown,  
Fought their fight—the kingdom won,  
From their thrones of bliss can tell—  
' Christian Pilgrim, it is well,  
Evermore to trust the word—  
*" Cast thy burden on the Lord ! "*

## READY TO DEPART.

"Having a desire to depart, and to be Christ; which is far better."—Phil. i. 23.

"Being such an one as Paul the aged Philemon 9.

"I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day."—2 Tim. iv.

JESUS, I desire to be  
In that Better world with Thee!  
Freed from tyrant-yoke of sin,  
Foes without and fears within;  
No more sickness laying low,  
Days of pain, and nights of woe;  
Clouds and darkness disappear'd,  
Trials neither felt nor fear'd;  
Satan and his legions bound,  
Grave despoil'd, and death uncrown'd

Oh for wings of dove to flee  
To that Better world with Thee !

But, if ready to depart,  
And to see Thee where Thou art ;  
If I've fought the pilgrim-fight,  
Kept my heavenly armour bright,  
Won the conqueror's fadeless crown—  
Glory to Thy grace alone.  
Lord, to Thee I owe each gem  
In my blood-bought diadem !  
Through eternal years of bliss  
Let my lofty song be this :—

' Unto Him that lovèd me,  
Wash'd me in His precious blood ;  
From my sins hath set me free,  
Made me king and priest to God :—  
Unto Him be glory given,  
Through the endless years of heaven.'  
Oh, the rapture then to be  
In that Better world with Thee !

23D DAY.

## THE BORDER RIVER.

"Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan."—Josh. i. 11.

"Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan."—Josh. iii. 11.

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."—Deut. xxxiii. 27.

"I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee."—Isa. xliii. 1, 2.

WHEN thou passest through the waters,  
I will be your Friend and Guide ;  
Ye I name My sons and daughters,  
Dread ye not to breast the tide.  
I have promised to deliver,  
Fearless ye may onwards go ;  
When ye cross the border river,  
Never will its streams o'erflow.  
All your care upon Me casting,  
Confident My strength shall save ;  
These My arms are everlasting,  
Deeper than the deepest wave.

With Thy promised presence nigh,  
Thus, dear Lord, would I reply :—

‘ Where Thou goest, I will go,  
Where Thou dwellest, I will dwell ;  
Parting I shall never know  
From the Friend I love so well :  
Death itself in vain shall sever  
Bonds of bliss that last for ever !’

24TH DAY.

## THE SUN AND SHIELD.

"The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."—Ps. lxxxiv. 11.

"Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings."—Mal. iv. 2.

"But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head."—Ps. iii. 3.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Rev. iii. 21.

THE Lord God is my Sun,  
My Buckler, and my Shield,  
By Him each conquest won  
On earthly battle-field.

When clouds hung o'er my head,  
When sorrows dimm'd my sight,  
The lowering shadows fled  
Before this radiance bright.

When faith was prone to yield,  
Confronting legion-foes,  
Behind this glorious shield  
My waning courage rose.

Earth's suns may cease to shine,  
Earth's shields to give defence,  
Not so the Sun divine,  
The Shield—Omnipotence.

O Thou unsetting Sun !  
Light on my pilgrim way,  
Until, the warfare done,  
I enter endless day.

2821

## LIFE AND DEATH.

"How long have I to live?"—2 Sam. xix.

"Lord, make me to know mine end, an measure of my days, what it is; that I may how frail I am."—Ps. xxxix. 4.

"We spend our years as a tale that is told. days of our years are threescore years and and if by reason of strength they be four years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow it is soon cut off, and we fly away."—Ps. xc. 9

"With long life will I satisfy him, and him my salvation."—Ps. xci. 16.

"And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Thess. iv. 17.

How long have I to live?  
Are threescore years and ten  
All that this life can give?  
Poor passing tale, and then—  
                                    TO DIE!

How long have I to die?  
A moment-pang, no more;  
And then, to yonder sky,  
Mounting, for evermore—  
                                    TO LIVE!

26TH DAY.

## TRUSTING IN THE DARK.

"Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness."—Pa. cxii. 4.

"Thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."—Pa. xxvii. 9.

"It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."—Lam. iii. 26.

"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb."—Rev. xv. 3.

O THOU, who hast from day to day  
Sustain'd me on my pilgrim way;  
Thou, who, with more than Father's love,  
Hast lavish'd blessings from above;  
Vouchsafe Thy gracious guidance still,  
And all Thy promises fulfil:  
Be these, in hours of darkness, bright,  
Like stars which gem the brow of night.  
Often my drooping soul has cast  
Its troubles on Thee in the past;

In youth, in manhood, and in age,  
Throughout my lengthen'd pilgrimage:  
Let not my wayward heart repine,  
But wholly merge my will in Thine;  
Meekly confiding in Thy grace,  
And trusting where I fail to trace:  
Though troubles rise on every side,  
The Lord that sends them will provide.  
Teach me to wait, and courage take,  
Assured that soon the day will break,  
When in Thy light we light shall see,  
Unravelling all mystery!  
Oh, then, no harp shall be unstrung,  
But on shall roll from every tongue,  
What now our tears forbid to tell—  
“The Lord hath order'd all things  
well.”

No dissonance shall mar above  
The ceaseless refrain—“God is Love.”  
Blest City of the Crystal sea!  
Where every lip, in praise to Thee,  
Shall sing, amid the waveless calm,  
The song of Moses and the Lamb!

## LENGTHENING SHADOW

"Wee unto us! for the day goeth and shadows of the evening are stretched  
vi. 4.

"Now when I am old and gray-head  
forsake me not."—Ps. lxxi. 18.

"Cast me not off in the time of old  
sake me not when my strength fails  
lxxi. 9.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place  
most High shall abide under the shadow of the  
Almighty. . . . He shall cover thee with his  
feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust.  
His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.  
xci. 1, 4.

"The Master is come, and calleth for thee.  
John xi. 28.

FORBID that we should ever say,  
 ' Woe unto us, because the day  
 In clouds and darkness speeds away ! .

' Woe unto us, for evening shades  
 Are stretchèd out in sombre glades,  
 And earth's familiar landscape fades !'

Cast me not off in time of age ;  
 Forsake me not in life's last stage ;  
 Cheer to the last my pilgrimage.

When death its darkness round me  
     flings,  
 Be these mysterious shadowings  
 The shade of the Almighty's wings !

Thus, when the summons comes to me,  
 Like Angel whispering, let it be—  
 " The Master's come, and calls for  
     thee !"

28TH DAY.

## SOVEREIGN GRACE.

"By the grace of God I am what I am."—1 Cor. xv. 10.

"Wandering stars."—Jude 13.

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."—Eph. ii. 13.

"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."—Luke xv. 20.

"And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."—Luke xv. 5, 6.

"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."—1 Pet. ii. 25.

LORD, Thy gracious hand I own ;  
Thou hast holden me alone.  
Where, but for Thy grace divine,  
Would have been this heart of mine ?  
Sheep astray ;—a wandering star  
Bent on devious orbit far :  
Trembling on some fearful brink,  
Ready every step to sink :  
Prodigal, condemn'd to roam,  
Exile from a Father's home !

If the star, from wild career,  
Moves within diviner sphere ;  
If, from mountains bleak and cold,  
Erring sheep has found the fold,  
Turning to the ways of peace  
From the fatal precipice ;  
If, within his Father's hall  
Walks the outcast prodigal—  
Lord, Thy sovereign grace I own,  
Thou hast saved, and Thou alone !

29TH DAY

## MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

"In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."—John xiv. 2, 3.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory"—John xvii. 24.

My Father's house above,  
Blest mansions full of love  
Beyond the sky!  
Can Christ have gone before  
To open wide the door  
For such as I?  
Home which angel-feet have trod,  
City of the Living God!

Yes, ye trophies of His grace,  
Purchased is your dwelling-place:

Blood of priceless worth was given  
To unlock the gates of Heaven.  
Now by faith, but then by sight,  
Shall ye walk its realms of light :  
Charter'd heirs of endless glory,  
Wondrous is the bliss before ye !

Live with your salvation nigh,  
Ready for the midnight cry.  
Dying moments dread not so ;  
These are but the portico  
Opening to your Father's hall ;  
Shadows for a moment fall,  
Then eternal festival !  
Life, not death, is surely this—  
Birthday of eternal bliss !  
Soon your loving Lord will come,  
To conduct His ransom'd home.  
Gird your loins, your lanterns trim,  
Watch, and wait, and work for Him ;  
Be ye faithful servants all,  
Longing for the Master's call.

30TH DAY.

## THE DARK VALLEY.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Ps. xxiii. 4.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."—1 Cor. xv. 55-57.

"Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."—Rev. i. 17, 18.

THE 'shade' of death alone is cast  
Athwart the dismal vale,  
The dread reality is past,  
No longer to assail:  
For He who guides with staff and rod,  
My Elder Brother, yet my God,

Enter'd Himself the lonesome tomb,  
And died, to dissipate the gloom.  
The tyrant monarch's power is spent,  
His brow uncrown'd, his kingdom rent ;  
For Jesus, the Omnipotent,  
The seal'd stone has roll'd away,  
And angels, from the realms of day,  
Are sent to tell, " He is not here,  
Behold His vacant sepulchre ! "

Where then, O death, thy venom'd  
sting ?

O grave, thy victory where ?  
All praise to our Immortal King,  
Triumphant Vanquisher !  
Extol the Lord of life, once dead,  
Exalted now our glorious Head,  
Holding the keys of death's dark portal  
Conducting to the life immortal.  
Let seraphim and cherubim—  
Let all the ransom'd hosts on high  
Awake their loudest songs to Him  
Who captive led captivity !

31st DAY.

## THE UNSETTING SUN.

"The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."—Isa. lx. 19, 20.

"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."—Rev. vii 16, 17.

THE eventide is past ;  
Past is life's sunset hour ;  
No more do tempests lower,  
No more are skies o'ercast.

Thenceforth the Lord shall be  
Thine everlasting light :  
Before His sunshine bright  
The mists of earth shall flee.

The vale of sorrow trod,  
The Shepherd ever nigh,  
The flock shall pasture high  
Upon the hills of God !

No more shall wane thy moon,  
Nor pale thy sun its light ;  
In day which knows no night,  
One everlasting noon !



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